

THE

## Digger

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REGINA

July, 1945

# Retail Workroom a Busy Place These Days!



Yes, Mrs. MacBean and her capable assistant, Mrs. Moscaliuk, in their bright workroom, do everything from covering chesterfields to securing a dachshund's tail, (a stuffed one, of course). Eye-catching cushions, curtains, drapes, bedspreads, etc., emerge like magic from the deft-fingered ladies of the Sewing Room on the second floor.

They are always willing to give friendly advice on all problems in the drapery line, and do enjoy their work.

If you find a button missing fellas, be sure to drop in and have the damage repaired.

## BLUE CROSS HOSPITAL PLAN opens Aug. 1st



Employees who are not members of the Blue Cross Plan for Hospital Care will be glad to know that the semi-annual enrolment period opens August 1st. This will be your opportunity to join.

Present subscribers who wish to add dependents or make any change in their existing contract can do so at this time. Plan contracts for new enrolments become effective September 1, 1945.

Many in our Company who have already benefited from this hospitalization plan speak highly of the advantages offered. The cost is low—less than 2c a day for the single subscriber—less than 3½c a day for the family—Simpson's share the cost.

Keep this matter in mind. Full information will be distributed shortly.



## KNOW YOUR PEOPLE

### FRANK LARKIN

Leyton, Essex, near London, England, was the birth-place of Frank Larkin. As a young man he was fond of swimming and football.

Upon completion of his education he apprenticed to the London wholesale furniture trade, specializing in bedroom furnishings. However in 1912 feeling the call to adventure, he joined the Imperial Army with the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry, training in England and Ireland, where from Dublin in 1914 at the outbreak of World War I, he shipped to France with the first Expeditionary Force. He saw active service in France, Belgium and Italy, and was in the thick of it at such places as Mons, The Marne, Ypres, and The Somme, managing to survive although wounded in May 1918. In 1919 he was placed on the Reserve List with the rank of Lieutenant.

Looking for a change he next journeyed to Auckland, New Zealand, and in 1920 toiled for John Court's Ltd., a large retail department store, where he followed his trade of furniture finishing.

Still with an itchy foot, he came to Canada in 1929 by way of Honolulu, settling in Regina where he came to the Company in October as a furniture finisher, and here he has been since.

Frank thinks the climate of Canada more stimulating than that of New Zealand which he says is a lovely country but he likes the air of enterprise in Canada, the sharper Canadian methods with its atmosphere of decision.



Living at 1409 Rae Street with his wife, Mrs. C. J. Larkin, and their daughter Joyce, who by the way is soon to be married, Frank spends his leisure time painting. He is a member of the Federated Canadian Artists. His son Peter is in the North with the Dominion Fisheries for the summer, having just obtained his B.A. with honors, from the University of Saskatchewan, to which institution he expects to return this fall for his Master's degree.

## GOLFING

There may be a shortage of Golf balls but that does not seem to hinder Golfers like Bob McDonald, Stan Larkin, Mort Young, Bud Hutchison, Ray Holmes, Les Hammond and Bill Amell from tee-ing off every week-end. Some scores turned in are very low and others are a little high but nevertheless the sportsmanship attitude still prevails. Mort Young and Bob McDonald have had Caddie Trouble and blame Scoop Hunter for it all. Flash! Golf Balls may soon be on the market.

Heard at the Service Building Lunch Bar:

Keith Tinline, after flipping with salesman Necurity and losing, ordered one coffe and one "Water."

\* \* \*

Louise LaRoche—Guess what happened to me last night?

Jean Smallwood—In a bored tone of voice, "Lost all your money at bingo."

Louise—Yep!!!

## Co-operation

Two donkeys, so the story goes, were tethered each to each—

When, lo, they neared two cocks of hay that seemed within their reach.

Each sought his own, the rope grew taught, as tho each would apply

His utmost strength to take his share or know the reason why.

They pulled and scraped and pawed and kicked as tho indeed insane—

But not by such fool stunts could they one single bit obtain,

Till, wearied, turning face to face, they talked the matter o'er,

And mutually agreed that they would thus behave no more.

At peace, they soon one cock devoured, and ate the other too.

How good their joint refreshment seemed none but the donkeys knew.

Ye humans, crude and stubborn willed, respect the common tether

Be wise, confer, agree, co-work; and take your Joys together.



# Social Highlights

— in and around the store

We miss Mrs. Margaret Temlett behind the wool counter. Margaret has had to take a rest. Hope you're back again soon, Marg.!

Miss Mary Webber recently underwent an operation and is progressing favorably. Hurry back, Mary!

Mr. F. W. Sutherland, ("Sudsy" of Dress Goods, Staples and Draperies) is very badly missed around the store these days. We all hope that his illness will not last much longer, and that he will return to us in better health and spirits than ever.

Emma Gelner (Checking) was presented with a compact by her fellow-workers on the 8th Floor on severing her connections with the firm.

Doreen Mohr (Shipping) is now convalescing at home, after a lengthy illness in Hospital. Her friends on "3" wish her a speedy recovery.

Margaret Schmidt (7th Floor Work Room) who recently visited in Halifax, brings greetings from Wren Gladys Tindall and Mrs. L. Greig, former employees of the Company.

Mrs. Shaw (formerly of Order Review) appreciates getting "The Digger" and enjoys reading it every month.

When Mrs. Bernice Derkat (Adjusting) left at the end of June for a month's holiday, there was a happy gleam in her eyes. Her husband, Sgt. Derkat, who served for 4½ years overseas, was to arrive in Regina July 4th. Happy re-union, Bernice!

The Misses Eleanor Gibson and Maxine Ames of the Adjusting Department entertained in honor of Eileen Tidball, bride-elect of August. The evening was spent making a cook book which featured a snapshot of each girl present and the recipe she contributed. Eileen was presented with a set of book-ends.

Dolly Graham (Shipping) recently received a lovely box of candy from the U.S.A., and much to her surprise found the sender was Mrs. B. Harris (formerly of the Shipping) who is visiting her son in New York.

Dorothy Hughes (R.C.A.F.-W.D.), formerly the store) back on a 30-day leave from overseas.

Thomas McRadu, one of our Navy lads, while home on leave visited the 7th Floor. A card from Stuart Hopkins tells us, he is having a wonderful time in Bermuda.

Dorothy Hughes (R.C.A.F.-W.D.), formerly of Dept. 14, now stationed at St. Hubert, Que., was a visitor to the 4th Floor. Dot is now a Sergeant.

Miss Davidson presented Dolores Dilschneider of the 7th Floor with a gift from her fellow-associates. Dolores has left, to make her home at Kenosee, Sask.

Mrs. Beatrice Haigh of Dept. 22, recently severed her connection with Simpson's and was presented with a gift by Mr. Larkin, on behalf of the Staff.

The girls in the telephone office, recently had a slight scare, as a small mouse ran through the office. They are eventually getting both feet back on the floor.

We are sorry to learn of the passing of Tessie Mock's mother, and extend our deepest sympathy to Tessie's family.

Betty Potter (Display) was married to Mr. Jack Armitage at Metropolitan Church, July 21st, at 2:00 p.m. Betty and Jack will honeymoon at the Coast for a couple of weeks. Betty will return to continue to do those fascinating drawings one sees in our daily ad.

Miss Davidson recently had the happy task of presenting a gift on behalf of the 5th floor staff to Miss Hazel (Lefty) Kutzley who was married on June 26th to LAC. S. N. Ohm, R.C.A.F. The happy couple spent their honeymoon at Banff.

Miss Ida Smith (Personal Shopping) became the bride of Mr. J. Klein Monday, July 16th. The ceremony was performed at Blessed Sacrament Church at 10:00. Ida will be returning after an extended honeymoon.

The girls of the Buying Dept. entertained at a surprise shower recently at the Novia Gold Room, in honor of Miss Mable Barnes, August bride-elect. Singing was enjoyed with Thelma Axtell at the piano. Miss Betty Morrison, on behalf of the girls, presented the honor guest with a corsage of roses, with Miss Barbara Molter making the presentation of a lovely console mirror. The evening was brought to a close with the girls singing most heartily, "For She's A Jolly Good Fellow." We all wish you the best of everything in the future, Miss Barnes!



# Humor --- The way you like it

The secret of happiness is not in doing what one likes, but in liking what one has to do.

—James M. Barrie.

\* \* \*

Life being very short, and the quiet hours of it few, we ought to waste none of them in reading valueless books.—John Ruskin.

\* \* \*

Sunday School Teacher: "What are heathens?"

Bright Boy: "Heathens are people who don't quarrel over religion."

\* \* \*

Foreman: "Excuse me, but are you the lady wot's singing?"

Lady: "Yes, I was singing. Why?"

Foreman: "Well, might I ask you not to hang on to that top note so long? The men have knocked off twice already, mistakin' it for the dinner whistle!"

\* \* \*

## Not His Responsibility

The wife of a recently-married Scotsman had successfully undergone an operation for appendicitis. A day or two later after the operation her husband was having a whiskey with the doctor, who in a moment of forgetfulness mentioned that the operation should have taken place two or three years earlier.

The father-in-law received the bill.

\* \* \*

Selectee: "They can't make me fight."

Draft Board Chairman: "Maybe not, but they can take you where the fighting is, and you can use your own judgment."

\* \* \*

"Nice weather, we're having," said one socialist to another.

"Yes," said the other grudgingly, "but the rich have it, too."

\* \* \*

Doctor: "Your eye looks bad. I see signs of liver trouble, or anemia, and I fear chronic nervous affliction."

Patient: "Look at my other eye, Doc. That one is glass."

\* \* \*

Willie was absent from school one day and the next day, the teacher received the following note: "Please excuse Willie from school today. He caught a skunk."

\* \* \*

A Tennessee hillbilly had been calling on his girl for more than a year when pappy finally cornered him and asked:

"Tell me, you have been seein' Nellie for nigh onto a year and a half. What are yer intentions—honorable or dishonorable?"

The hillbilly's eyes sparkled: "You mean I got a choice?"

\* \* \*

Diner—That waiter is either a fool or a humorist.

Friend—Why, what's the matter?

Diner—I ordered extract of beef, and he brought me a glass of milk.

## Rationing

I don't mind weaker coffee,  
Less butter, clothes and tea,  
And I can do without the car,  
Those things don't bother me.

I don't complain because there is  
No icing on my cake,  
But darned if I'll eat **Old Dobbin**,  
Served up as **T-Bone Steak**.

\* \* \*

In Berlin now, when a man bites a dog it isn't news; it's LUNCH.

\* \* \*

Soldier (finding wasp in soup): What's this?

Cook: Vitamin bee.

\* \* \*

Pat and Mike were detailed for a scout duty overseas. The commanding officer ordered them to conceal themselves in a cow's hide and pretend to graze over toward the German trenches. Pat was given the front legs and Mike the hind legs.

All went well until Pat received a prod from his buddy. "Come, let's get out of here," hissed Mike.

"What's the matter?" queried Pat.

"Matter?" snorted Mike. "Here comes a German with a milk pail!"

\* \* \*

"What you got in that little black bag?"

"Them's my instruments. I'm a veterinarian."

"Quit, yo' kidding, man! Yo' ain't never been in no wah!"

\* \* \*

Barber: Haven't I shaved you before?"

Sergeant: Nope. I got this scar at Pearl Harbor.

\* \* \*

Marj wants to know "why is a woman scared of a mouse when she will eagerly step into a car with a wolf."

\* \* \*

I met him in the garden,  
I'll remember him till death,  
That fellow knew his onions  
You could tell it by his breath.

—Anonymous.

\* \* \*

## HOLIDAZE

Glancing around you'll see a far away gaze,  
And most of the staff appear in a daze,  
But just mention vacation and you will see,  
Their plans they will tell with the greatest of glee.

"Another month and we'll be on our way,  
For two whole weeks—no work—with pay.  
To Males and not mails we'll devote our time"  
(Can't find a line to put here that will rhyme).

Be it fishing, swimming, riding or dancing,  
Golfing, hiking, canoeing or romancing.  
In those two weeks, not a minute we'll shirk,  
We can do our resting when we get back to work. (We hope!)





## KNOW YOUR PEOPLE

### BETTY MOCK

We were pleased to interview Betty, for our "know your people" column. She's a true Reginan, born and educated here. She started to work in October, 1927, at the Robert Simpson Company as a mail checker for Mrs. Dixon where she worked for one year. Then she was transferred to Mr. Trims' Department to work as a mail filler. She stayed at this position for three years then went into her present job in the office.

Betty has been active on both the War Service Club and the Social Club. Her hobbies include petitpoint work, knitting, dancing, skating and travelling. Eighteen years with the Company is a fine record, Betty!

## A Tribute From Our Dutch Allies

Upon the entry of Canadian troops into Amsterdam at the liberation of Holland from the Nazi yoke, "Trouw", a Dutch underground paper, (which was published during the entire period of German oppression) brought out a special issue of Thanksgiving, printed in English and paying particular tribute to the Canadians, offering to them the freedom of the city with all its old world hospitality.

We reprint a few lines from the paper:

"Soldiers of the allied armies, we want you to know that you are welcome in our beloved Amsterdam, that you are welcome in our houses and at our table. We hope you will fraternize with our good old people of Amsterdam. The Germans have robbed us of many a thing but they could not deprive us of the old famous intimacy of our family-life. You, as our friends are invited to get acquainted with it.

"Most of you are Canadians. Well, we want to thank you especially for the kind hospitality your country has shown to our Royal Princess and her three beloved daughters. One of them has been born on the soil of your country and we will never forget the friendship the Royal Family enjoyed amidst your people. We will point out on the map this far-away land to our children and grand-children, telling them the story of our deliverance and gladness.

"May the friendship between your people and ours last for many, many generations."

Courtesy—Kitty Medley.

## THE POEM OF THE MONTH!

### "Man and Mice"

George Perfect went to catch a mouse;  
He searched for traps all through the house,  
And when he'd found a score or more,  
He placed them neatly on the floor.  
He baited them with ancient cheese,  
Which perfumed sweet the balmy breeze.

He made a ring round Shorty's chair;  
Beneath the desk he placed them there;  
Then to the mouse he said a prayer  
"Come, little mouse, with nimble feet.  
Come! I've prepared for you a treat.  
Come sniff this cheese and eat your fill,  
The treat's on me, I'll foot the bill."  
His words impressed the little beast,  
Who gayly scampered to the feast.  
He brought with him his Dad and Mother,  
His sisters, cousins, and his brother.

They ate the cheese and looked for more,  
Then cleaned the fragments from the floor.  
Then said the mouse, "I almost feel  
As though I'd had a perfect meal."  
No thanks to George for all of that,  
For he'd forgot to set the trap.

By Jack Chambers, 7th Floor.





## KNOW YOUR PEOPLE

### THOMAS WELLER

Tommy Weller was born in London, England, in 1879 where he attended public school, and enjoyed boxing, cricket, and football. A metal worker by trade, he stayed in this line of work for 13 years.

In 1903 he married in London, and in 1906 sailed for Canada where he took a farm for a few years near Hartney, Manitoba. The Canadian National Railway beckoned, and he accepted the position of Section foreman with them until he joined the Royal Canadian Engineers and went overseas in the First World War in 1916. Tommy saw active service with the forces in France before returning to Canada in 1919.

In June of the same year he began with Simpson's in Department 45, remaining for four and one half years. During the next ten years he held several jobs until returning again to the fold in 1934 to work in the Maintenance Department. He has since transferred to Department 22.

Tommy is a member of the Masonic Order, St. Andrew's Lodge, and resides with his wife on the seventeen block Scarth Street.

Good luck and good health to a swell guy!

## Good Business

BY EDGAR A. GUEST

If I possessed a shop or store,  
I'd drive the grouches off my floor.

I'd never let some gloomy guy  
Offend the folks who come to buy,

I'd never keep a boy or clerk...  
With mental toothache at his work.

Nor let a man who draws my pay  
Drive customers of mine away.

I'd treat the man who takes my time...  
And spends a nickel or a dime,

Because tomorrow, who can tell?  
He may want stuff I have to sell,

And in that case, then glad he'll be  
To spend his dollars all with me.

The reason people pass one door...  
To patronize another store,

Is not because the busier place...  
Has better silks, or gloves, or lace

Or special prices, but it lies...  
In pleasant words and smiling eyes;

The only difference, I believe,  
Is in the treatment folks receive!

## Sporting News

In a softball tilt played at Scott Collegiate on Friday, the 13th of July, proved to be a bad night for the Simpson Fastball Team, who were beaten to the tune of 17-6 by a team picked from the Company staff.

Elmer Bradley, just returned from Active service, was the spark plug of the Pickup team, while Howie Lysack at short stop picked up hot grounders as if it were child's play. Mac Donnelly smacked out a double with two men on in the initial inning to make the score 4-0 at the end of the first, which was just a start. Frank Yerhoff (the chess King) poled out a home run in the fourth to keep the pot boiling and Elmer Bradley cleared the sacks in the sixth in the same manner.

Altogether the regular team was a well beaten outfit, but maybe they weren't trying, eh?

"Simpson's"—Johnson, McIntyre, Rittinger, Mieres, Harker, N. Guthrie, J. Guthrie, Shea.

"Pick-up"—J. Rittinger, E. Rittinger, Bradley, Yerhoff, Lysack, McConnell, Donnelly, Holmes, C. Rittinger.

## TORONTO VISITORS

Mr. J. J. Walters, Assistant Manager, Department 25, Toronto Mail Order, is here on holidays. Joe has made the rounds of the store looking up old friends. He was formerly assistant to Mr. Fogarty before going to Toronto.

Boss (to pretty, young applicant): "So you want a job? Had any experience?"

Applicant: "Oh, some very wonderful ones!"





## Away Back When!

Many of you will recall this very interesting group of people, some of them are still with us. Just to recall old times we raked this up for "The Digger." Shown from left to right and in the departments they worked at that time: Baron Hodsman, Dept. 22; Frank Daborn, Dept. 45; Ronald Shawcross, Agencies; Charlie Burton, Receiving; Don King, Receiving; Eric Peachy, Dept. 23; Ernie Dennis, Advertising; Curly Rothermel, Trade-in Shop; Claude Kirkpatrick, Advertising; Geo. Bomphray, Advertising.

## Bring 'Em Down A Peg

When this awfy war is over,  
An' we hope for better days,  
There's a section o' the public  
That'll need tae mend their ways.

That lassie in the sweetie shop  
Aroond the corner there,  
She passes me my pappermints  
As if she didna care.

That felly in the fish shop  
I wud like tae bring tae book,  
An' wipe frae aff his ugly mug  
That tak'-it-or-leave-it look!

The waitress lolls against the wa'  
An' gossips wi' her chum;  
I ha'e tae ca' her twice afore  
She condescends tae come.

In higher places I inquire  
About some food affair;  
They throw me forms tae fill an' sing  
As if I wasna there.

Civility, the sayin' goes,  
Costs nothin' an' it's true;  
An' yet it means an awfy lot  
Tae the likes o' me an' you.

Noo if the fowk I'm hittin' at  
Will see an' mend their ways,  
'Twill help tae mak' a better world  
An' lead tae happier days.

### A TIDBIT:

We overheard our Company nurse relate how she got rid of a wart at one time in her life, by secretly burying the joints of straws in the ground regularly, until the nasty thing disappeared!



## The Stork Club

Hunter Scoops again! Congratulations are in order for Mr. and Mrs. H. Hunter who are the proud parents of a baby girl—Valda Mae, born July 14th.

To Tpr. E. Dibble (overseas) and Mrs. Dibble (nee Mae Dunstan) a baby girl, Joanne Elaine, on June 27th.

Best wishes to you all!

## SUCCESS TALK

By

RODERICK G. STEVENS

There is enough to know about any work there is to do to make the one who does that work an expert in his line.

To be expert means to do work in hand the very best that it can be done.

There is pride and pleasure, as well as profit, in becoming expert in whatever we may do—and there is always room higher up for those who qualify by reaching the limit of efficiency in a given position. The advancement and promotion which are solid and permanent must come by degrees and those who realize their ambitions in life and business must exercise constant patience and perseverance in their endeavours.



## Return to Civvie Street



JOHNNY GEISINGER

Johnny was employed in Dept. 14 over a year before enlisting in the R.C.A.F. in July, 1942.

He trained at Edmonton, Regina, Mount View, Ont., at Chatham, N.B., with an O.T.U. and Debert, Nova Scotia, holding the rank of W.O.2. He was engaged in Trans-Atlantic flying as a navigator for some time.

Johnny has returned to Dept. 14 after receiving his discharge in July, 1945.



ELMER BRADLEY

Elmer enlisted in the R.C.N. in September 1939, beginning active service in April, 1940.

After receiving training at the East and West coast and England, he took part in convoy duty between Newfoundland, Ireland and Iceland.

Petty Officer Bradley also instructed at Cornwallis for some time.

Receiving his honourable discharge in July 1945, Elmer is again employed in the Retail China Dept. where he worked before his enlistment.

## War Service News

From Gordon Fieldgate, who writes, "I see we managed to top our Quota again in the Eighth Victory Loan but then I knew we'd do it, we're always there "firstest with the mostest."

We just returned from Scotland a short while ago with 30 naval ratings as passengers. Just before we left Londonderry I saw Carrie Skillicorn and she was expecting to return home soon. It was quite a sight to see 34 German Submarines tied up along the Foyle River just outside of Londonderry, Ireland. They were all sizes, from big ones larger than our ship, to small two-men affairs."

From Vancouver says Geo. C. Moore, "I have intended writing before, but anything I could say in appreciation of this contact with old friends, and home town news, has already been adequately described by the many letters published from other employees in distant places. So I will simply say "thanks" and hope it will not be too long now, before I can personally renew my old acquaintances."

Mr. Amell's office received a letter from one of their sailor lads—Gordie Rasmussen. He

wishes to extend thanks to "The Digger" for his subscription. He thinks it is a nice newsy little paper and a good way to keep track of his old friends.

The gang on the fourth floor Annex, heard from Johnny Hewson, who is overseas with an Army band. He is "in the pink", and sends regards to his friends throughout the building. Johnny may be seeing us all again soon.

Another former employee of the 4th floor, has been heard from—Albert Raist of Dept. 30. Albert is in the shipyards at Victoria. He is well and wishes to be remembered to all back at Simpson's.

Helen Bumstead (nee Carr) recently received news that her husband, who was a prisoner in Germany, is now on his way home. Helen has left the company to join him. Sorry to see you leave, Helen.

Word has been received that Bill Morrison (shipping) has now been liberated. We hope to see him safely back in Canada soon.